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C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 000688

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR ISN/CPI (FELIPE)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/02/2019

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PARM](#) [MNUC](#) [MTCR](#) [KN](#) [PL](#)

SUBJECT: POLAND STILL WORKING OUT FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF
UNSCR 1874

REF: A. STATE 65483

[1](#)B. STATE 66250

Classified By: Political Counselor F. Daniel Sainz for Reasons 1.4 (b)
and (d)

[1](#)1. (C) GoP authorities will do their best to implement fully the inspection provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 1874 but are unsure how to proceed on some of the financial implications of the new measures. Urszula Raznowiecka of the MFA's Asia-Pacific Department told us that legal experts at the Ministry were still analyzing the impact of UNSCR 1874 on Poland's financial dealings with North Korea. Raznowiecka pointed out, for example, that Pyongyang still owed money to Warsaw as a result of the two governments' long association during the Cold War era. North Korea is repaying this debt, mainly through payments-in-kind of various natural resources, which are shipped to Poland from North Korea on a vessel that has served this unique purpose for almost 60 years. Raznowiecka said GoP legal and financial experts were trying to determine whether these activities would be restricted under the resolution.

[1](#)2. (C) Raznowiecka welcomed the U.S. offer to provide assistance for inspections of North Korean ships. Information exchanges with the U.S. would be particularly useful, she noted, if Polish authorities had any suspicions regarding specific cases involving North Korean vessels or cargo. She added that Poland was coordinating its activities with the EU as well.

[1](#)3. (C) Raznowiecka recalled that the Polish Ambassador in Pyongyang had raised concerns -- both individually and in coordination with other EU missions in the country -- about the case of the two AmCit journalists arrested for allegedly crossing into North Korea illegally. However, the Polish Embassy has not been meeting regularly with North Korean officials in recent months. Since April, Polish embassy staff had resorted to trading reports and rumors with other diplomats as their primary source of information in the country, a practice that Raznowiecka characterized as "better than nothing." She likewise mentioned that North Korean diplomats in Warsaw had not visited the MFA since April.
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